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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 12 Decembe. 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. de MARCO (Malta)

- Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [16] (continued)

  (c) Election of a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

- Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs [17] (continued)

  (i) Appointment of a member of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women

- Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): Letter from Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland [36]

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- Question of peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia [37]

- Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace [61]

  (a) Report of the First Committee

  (b) Report of the Fifth Committee

- Question of Antarctica: report of the First Committee [67]

- Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region: report of the First Committee [68]

- Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security: report of the First Committee [69]

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace: report of the First Committee [70]

- Report of the Economic and Social Council: report of the First Committee [12] (continued)

- Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations [125]

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 16 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

(c) ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

The PRESIDENT: Through the accession of the former German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the seat that had been occupied by the former German Democratic Republic on the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme became vacant as at 3 October 1990.

Consequently the General Assembly will proceed to elect a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme from the Eastern European States for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the former German Democratic Republic, that is, until 31 December 1993.

I should like to announce that the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States has informed me that his group has endorsed the candidature of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to fill the seat vacated by the former German Democratic Republic and has proposed that that Member State be elected to fill the vacant seat.

Under rule 92 of the rules of procedures, all elections must be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations. However, in accordance with paragraph 16 of decision 34/401, the Assembly may, in elections to subsidiary organs, dispense with secret balloting when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to proceed to the election on that basis?

It was so decided.

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The PRESIDENT: May I take it, therefore, that the Assembly wishes to declare the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic elected a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the former German Democratic Republic with immediate effect?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 16.

AGENDA ITEM 17 (continued)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

(i) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN

The PRESIDENT: Through the accession of the former German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from 3 October 1990, the seat that had been occupied by the former German Democratic Republic on the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women became vacant as at 3 October 1990. The term of office of the former German Democratic Republic was scheduled to expire on 31 December 1991.

Following consultations, I have appointed Bulgaria a member of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the former German Democratic Republic with immediate effect.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of this appointment?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded our consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 17.

AGENDA ITEM 36

QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS): LETTER FROM ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (A/45/136)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to call the attention of the Assembly to document A/45/136 containing a joint statement issued in Madrid on 15 February 1990 by representatives of the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Furthermore, and taking into account General Assembly decision 44/406, of 1 November 1989, I have to inform representatives that, following consultations regarding agenda item 36, on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), it is proposed that the General Assembly decides to postpone consideration of this item and to include it in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session.

May I take it, therefore, that the Assembly, taking into account its decision 44/406, wishes to take note of document A/45/136 and that it is also the wish of the Assembly to postpone consideration of this item and to include it in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded consideration of agenda item 36.

AGENDA ITEM 37

QUESTION OF PEACE, STABILITY AND CO-OPERATION IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The PRESIDENT: Following consultations regarding this item, it is proposed that in view of recent developments the General Assembly, in pursuance of the efforts to promote peace, stability and co-operation in South-East Asia, decide to postpone consideration of the item and to include it in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session.

(The President)

May I take it, therefore, that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: This concludes consideration of agenda item 37.

AGENDA ITEMS 61, 67 TO 70, AND 12 (continued)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

(a) REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/45/783)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/45/820)

QUESTION OF ANTARCTICA: REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/45/789)

STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/45/790)

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/45/791)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE PREPARATION OF SOCIETIES FOR LIFE IN PEACE: REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/45/792)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE (A/45/793)

The PRESIDENT: I request the Rapporteur of the First Committee, the representative of Togo, to introduce the reports of the First Committee in one intervention.

Mr. LAWSON-BETUM (Togo), Rapporteur of the First Committee (interpretation from French): At the 54th plenary meeting of the General Assembly I had the honour to present the reports of the First Committee on agenda items 45 to 60, 62 to 66 and 155, concerning disarmament.

At the present plenary meeting I should like to introduce the reports of the First Committee on the other agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly, namely, agenda items 61 and 67 to 70, and chapter III, ssction D, of the report of the Economic and Social Council, under agenda item 12.

The report on item 61, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace" is in document A/45/783. The report on item 67, on the question of Antarctica, is in document A/45/789. The reports on items 68 to 70, concerning international security, are in documents A/45/790 to A/45/792. Finally, the report on the relevant part of item 12, report of the Economic and

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Social Council, chapter III, section D, entitled "International co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant", is in document A/45/793.

Agenda item 61, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" was considered at the same time as the other disarmament agenda items between 15 October and 16 November.

Statements on this question highlighted the renewed dedication to the objectives of the Declaration, the important progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean during its two sessions in 1990, and the urgent need to overcome the differences of view within the Committee in the interest of the convening of the Colombo Conference. The objective of that Conference is to determine the most suitable ways and means of implementing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

According to the draft resolution adopted by a recorded vote at the 39th meeting of the First Committee, on 16 November, the General Assembly would reaffirm its full support for the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee as defined in the relevant resolutions and request the Committee to redouble its efforts to discharge that mandate. The General Assembly would request the Ad Hoc Committee to hold two preparatory sessions during 1991, the first with a duration of one week and the second with a duration of two weeks, for completion of preparatory work relating to the Conference on the Indian Ocean to enable the convening of the Conference at Colombo in 1992 in consultation with the host country.

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The question of Antarctica, under agenda item 67, was considered at five meetings, from 19 to 21 November and then on 28 November during the second stage of the work of the First Committee. It involved 16 statements, as compared with 25 at the forty-fourth session and 19 at the forty-third session, and the adoption of two draft resolutions by roll-call vote.

This certainly did not indicate a lessening of interest in the question of Antarctica, since the reduction in the number of speakers as compared with the last two sessions was balanced by a clear reaffirmation of the concerns of both States parties and States not parties to the Antarctic Treaty.

Unfortunately, the breakdown of the consensus, first seen at the fortieth session, continued during the present session.

Although convergences of views concerning the importance of Antarctica at the scientific, ecological and other levels, and on the absolute need to explore Antarctica exclusively for peaceful purposes, profound differences of view persisted concerning ways of managing Antarctica, the functioning of the Treaty and the participation of South Africa in meetings of the Consultative Parties.

Thus, on the one hand, there was reaffirmation of the shortcomings of the Treaty system, the vulnerability of Antarctica, and the numerous acts and dangers threatening its environment and the urgent need for a moratorium on prospecting and mining in Antarctica and for its transformation into a world park or a nature reserve in order to protect it from all man's harmful activities.

The need for the suspension of the participation of South Africa in meetings of the Consultative Parties was also reaffirmed as an indispensable measure given the continued existence of pillars of apartheid in that country.

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Furthermore, the improvement in the international political climate was singled out as an essential element that should favour a broad, open and constructive dialogue on the question between States parties and States not parties to the Treaty.

On the other hand, emphasis was placed on the merits of the Antarctic Treaty system as an outstanding example of international co-operation and as an important contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, the development of scientific knowledge and for global and regional protection of the environment.

However, taking the arguments on both sides together, the initiatives and positions taken for some time past by certain States parties to the Antarctic Treaty, particularly as regards ratification of the convention on mineral resources and the protection of the environment of Antarctica, were seen as positive developments in the efforts to work out a universally acceptable régime for the protection of the Antarctic environment.

Consideration of the question was supported by the adoption of two draft resolutions by roll-call votes, in which most of the States parties to the Antarctic Treaty did not participate. Moreover, those States had indicated through their spokesman before the voting that they would not participate in the vote. Thus there were 43 non-participants in the vote on draft resolution A and 35 non-participants in the vote on draft resolution B.

By draft resolution A, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive study with the help of relevant programmes and competent specialized agencies of the United Nations, using available data and resources, on the establishment of a station in Antarctica sponsored by the United Nations which would also serve as an early warning system on

(Mr. Lawson-Betum, Rapporteur, First Committee)

climate changes and accidents, and to submit a report to it on this matter during its forty-sixth session.

In the same draft resolution the General Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to submit a report, using available data and resources, on the state of the environment in Antarctica and its impact on the global environment.

By draft resolution B the General Assembly would appeal once again to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to take urgent measures to exclude the racist apartheid régime of South Africa from participation in their meetings at the earliest possible date, and invite them to inform the Secretary-General of the measure taken to follow up the present draft resolution.

Agenda items 68 to 70, concerning international security, were dealt with in seven meetings, from 26 to 30 November, during the third stage of the work of the First Committee. Consideration of this item involved 31 statements as compared with 32 at the forty-fourth session and 45 at the forty-third session, and the adoption of three draft resolutions, two of them without a vote.

The general debate and exchange of specific views on international security focused on three major steps with regard to analysis and future plans.

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The first step concerns highlighting the impact of the East-West rapprochement and the end of the cold war on efforts and prospects for strengthening international peace and security. This impact, which can be seen in the initiatives with a view to arms limitation and in disarmament and the adoption of confidence- and security-building measures, results from the fact that dialogue and co-operation are replacing hostility and political and ideological confrontation. It also results from an increased awareness of the need to base security policies, not on a continuing build-up of arms or on the search for military and strategic superiority, but rather on joint efforts to bring about substantive and balanced weapons reductions at levels compatible with legitimate defence needs.

The second step deals with emphasizing the importance of numerous initiatives undertaken in several regions of the world to promote and consolidate confidence, security and co-operation as well as with restoring the authority and effectiveness of the Security Council in exercising its primary responsibility regarding the maintenance of peace and international security, in particular in its handling of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Among other initiatives designed to strengthen peace and international security, note was taken of the positive conclusions of the historic summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe held in November in Paris, the increased prospects for regional co-operation opened up by the recent meetings of the Mediterranean non-aligned countries and the Balkan countries, and the interest shown in confidence- and security-building measures in other regions of the world, in particular in Asia and the Pacific, in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in Africa.

The third step dealt with in the general debate concerns the need to strengthen peace and international security in this post-cold-war period.

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Given the continuing challenges and new threats to peace and international security, in particular the crisis in the Persian Gulf, various statements singled out basic elements needed for the advent of a new, more peaceful, stable and just world balance which would allow for still greater predictability. These elements were as follows:

Ensuring the participation, on an equal footing, of all Member States in the process of establishing a new world order;

Deriving benefit from the positive changes which have taken place in Europe in order to revitalize the disarmament process;

Promoting political dialogue, the integration and establishment of confidence-building measures and security and co-operation in all other regions of the world, taking into account the specific nature of each region, and intensifying the efforts to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and zones free from other weapons of mass destruction;

Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of peace, consolidating the security of small countries, and promoting a peaceful, just and lasting settlement of all regional conflicts, which pre-supposes specifically that the Security Council should maintain and strengthen its cohesion and effectiveness in its handling of questions that fall within its competence;

Scrupulously respecting the principles of the Charter and other norms of international law;

Reorganizing international economic relations on a more just and equitable basis, which will result in increased growth for all countries, rich and poor, ensuring the gradual elimination of poverty and misery and finding lasting solutions to the difficult massive foreign debt problems of the developing countries;

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Strengthening the human aspect of security while providing still further respect for, and protection of, fundamental freedoms and human rights in all their aspects;

And, finally, intensifying the efforts with a view to the total and final eradication of the system of apartheid in South Africa.

With regard to the three specific agenda items on international security, many delegations emphasized the positive influence which the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security and the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace had on efforts aimed at advancing and strengthening international security. They also emphasized the need to transform the Mediterranean region into a zone of peace and co-operation.

In particular concerning the Mediterranean region, two main conclusions were arrived at during the debate, namely, the reaffirmation of the close link between security in the Mediterranean and Europe and international peace and security; and the urgent need to pursue and intensify efforts to eliminate the risks of military confrontation and the causes of tension in the region, to settle the conflicts in the Middle East, Palestine and Cyprus, and elsewhere, and progressively to reduce existing economic disparities between the Mediterranean countries and to strengthen multiform co-operation between the Mediterranean countries, Europe and the Balkan countries.

Among other measures indicated as being likely to strengthen security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, we should take note of the proposal for the convening of a conference on security and co-operation in the Mediterranean.

Following consideration of the agenda items on international security, three draft resolutions were adopted, two without a vote.

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The first draft resolution, entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region", states that the General Assembly urges all States to co-operate with the Mediterranean States in the intensification of existing forms of co-operation in various fields, with a view to reducing tension, promoting peace and security and ensuring stability, prosperity and support for democratic processes, economic reforms and developments in the countries of the region in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

In the second draft resolution, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace", the General Assembly appeals to all States to continue utilizing the United Nations potential to strengthen international peace and security, confidence and understanding as well as mutually beneficial co-operation among States in the common interest of all mankind.

It should be emphasized that with the adoption of this draft resolution we come to the conclusion of the consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace, in accordance with the statement made to this effect by the delegation which 12 years ago first put the item on our agenda.

In the third draft resolution, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", the General Assembly welcomes the active involvement of the Security Council in pursuance of its primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, and expresses the hope that it will continue in this spirit to address all the other threats to international peace and security with which it has been seized.

In addition, the General Assembly urges all States, in particular the nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant States, to take further

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immediate steps aimed at promoting and using effectively the system of collective security as envisaged in the Charter, as well as halting effectively the arms race with the aim of achieving general and complete disarmament under effective international control, and implementing the recommendations and decisions contained in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly.

It is not without interest to note that since the forty-fourth session we have seen a trend towards a reduction in the number of draft resolutions adopted by the Committee as compared to previous sessions. This is a trend which can be attributed both to positive changes in international relations and to efforts aimed at a rapprochement of views and positions and concern for a rationalization of work.

Thus, during the present session three draft resolutions were adopted under the various items dealing with international security, as compared to two at the forty-fourth session and six at the forty-third.

Under agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council", a relevant section, namely section D of chapter III, was also sent to the First Committee by the General Assembly at the same time as it was allocated to the Second Committee. The First Committee took up this question as a separate item within the framework of the third stage of its work in its consideration of its programme and timetable. Following the proposal of its Chairman, a proposal inspired by a concern for rationalization of the work and therefore for the need to avoid duplication, since this question was to be considered in depth by the Second Committee, the First Committee decided not to take up the matter or to take decisions relating thereto.

Finally, there is reason to observe and emphasize that the major changes which have taken place over the last three years in international relations have had a certain impact on the work of the First Committee, in particular in a noticeable

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reduction in the total number of draft resolutions and decisions adopted, and in the number of statements made by delegations.

Certainly the number of items allocated to the First Committee by the General Assembly was more or less consistent: 27 at the forty-fifth session, 26 at the forty-fourth session and 26 also at the forty-third session. Nevertheless, we must note the following progress: on the total number of items considered by the First Committee, 57 draft resolutions and decisions were adopted during the present session, as compared to 63 at the forty-fourth session and 74 at the forty-third.

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In addition, 27 draft resolutions and decisions were adopted without a vote at the forty-fifth session, compared to 23 at the forty-fourth session and 26 at the forty-third session.

As for statements made by delegations on all agenda items, these numbered 148 at the forty-fifth session, compared to 170 at the forty-fourth session and 178 at the forty-third session.

In concluding my introduction of the remaining reports of the First Committee, I should like to express my appreciation and sincere thanks to Mrs. Linda Perkins, Ms. Angela Batil and Mr. Donald Fitzpatrick, as well as to the other members of the secretariat of the Committee from the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, for their effective contribution to the work of our Committee.

Similarly, my appreciation and thanks also go to the interpreters and the conference officers, whose dedication and outstanding performance are indeed most praiseworthy.

Upon completing my term of office as Rapporteur, I should like to renew to the members of the First Committee my deep gratitude for the honour they have conferred on my country and me, for their confidence and for the privilege they have afforded me in making it possible to have such an enriching experience in this post.

Since the advent of a more stable, safe and just world requires the ongoing commitment of each and every one of us, making one's contribution, no matter how modest, in the efforts to promote general and complete disarmament and to strengthen international peace and security is a noble and lofty task no one can shirk.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the First Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the First Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from his vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the First Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed with the voting in the same manner as was done in the First Committee. This means that where recorded or roll-call votes were taken, we will do the same.

We will also proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were adopted without a vote in the First Committee, unless delegations have already notified the Secretariat otherwise.

The Assembly will now turn its attention to the report (A/45/783) of the First Committee on agenda item 61, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace". The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

(The President)

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications on the draft resolution is contained in document A/45/820.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: France, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey

The draft resolution was adopted by 128 votes to 4, with 17 abstentions (resolution 45/77).*

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* Subsequently the delegations of Cape Verde and Swaziland advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT: We have now concluded our consideration of agenda item 61.

We turn now to the report (A/45/789) of the First Committee on agenda item 67, entitled "Question of Antarctica".

Mr. BAMSEY (Australia): I speak on behalf of States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty which hold firmly to the view, expressed in the General Assembly when this item was last considered, on 15 December 1989, that consensus offers the only realistic basis for the consideration of Antarctica by the General Assembly. It was therefore a matter of regret for the Treaty Parties that consensus on the texts under this item has not been achieved.

Roll-call votes have been requested on the draft resolutions on the "Question of Antarctica". Those delegations which have elected not to participate in the vote will so indicate. I ask that such non-participation be explicitly indicated in the records of the General Assembly.

Mr. ARROSPIDA (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Peru will vote in favour of draft resolution B, referred to in paragraph 12 of the report of the Rapporteur of the First Committee on item 67, in document A/45/789. In so doing, the Government of Peru understands that this is a contribution to the strengthening of the appeal of the international community that South Africa should put an end to the unjust inhumane system of apartheid.

Consequently, the favourable vote by Peru in no way signifies the questioning of the principles of international law applicable to the rights and obligations flowing from international treaties.

Mr. G. SINGH (India): I speak on behalf of the delegations of Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru and India. These countries are all States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, and some are consultative parties. These countries have all along voted for resolutions on the question of Antarctica which

(Mr. G. Singh, India)

are submitted by the Group of African States, including last year's corresponding resolution 44/124 A.

Our delegations have extended consistent support for these resolutions. The international community is one in its strong sense of condemnation of the abhorrent system of apartheid. Our long-held commitment to fighting apartheid and all its manifestations, and to their total elimination, is well known and needs no reaffirmation here. It is for this reason that the delegations of Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru and India will vote in favour of draft resolution B in paragraph 12 of the First Committee's report (A/45/789) on agenda item 67.

It is, however, observed that the text of the draft resolution is different this year, in its operative paragraphs, from the corresponding text in the previous years in a substantive manner, which has shifted its balance.

(Mr. G. Singh, India)

We hope that the sponsors of the draft resolution will be able, on the next occasion, to restore its balance and its broadest possible appeal in our common and purposeful fight against apartheid.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take decisions on the two draft resolutions recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 12 of its report (A/45/789).

The Assembly will first take a decision on draft resolution A. A roll-call vote has been requested.

A roll-call vote was taken.

The Netherlands, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Fiji, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Portugal, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Draft resolution A was adopted by 98 votes to none, with 7 abstentions (resolution 45/78 A).* **

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* During the course of the roll-call vote the following members announced that they were not participating: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam.

** Subsequently, the delegations of Cape Verde and Swaziland advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of Venezuela that it had intended to abstain.

The PRESIDENT: Next we turn to draft resolution B.

A roll-call vote has been requested.

A roll-call vote was taken.

Canada, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Portugal, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Draft resolution B was adopted by 107 votes to none, with 7 abstentions (resolution 45/78 B).* **

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* During the course of the roll-call vote the following members announced that they were not participating: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

** Subsequently the delegation of Cape Verde advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 67.

The General Assembly will now consider the report of the First Committee (A/45/790) on agenda item 68, entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region". The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 8 of that report.

The First Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/79).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 68.

The General Assembly will now consider the report of the First Committee (A/45/791) on agenda item 69, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 9 of that report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The draft resolution was adopted by 123 to 1, with 29 abstentions (resolution 45/80).*

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Bulgaria, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote.

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* Subsequently, the delegation of Cape Verde advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Mr. SOTIROV (Bulgaria): The Bulgarian delegation voted in favour of the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, but would like to state the following: Bulgaria attaches great importance to the efforts of the international community aimed at strengthening international security. Those efforts, especially here at the United Nations, should be based on a balance of the interests of all States and groups of States.

We are firmly convinced that at this stage, when we are decisively discarding confrontational approaches and embarking on increased multilateral co-operation, the United Nations should speak with one voice on such a vital issue as international security. In other words, the resolution must be a consensus resolution. My delegation regrets that consensus could not be achieved.

In conclusion, I would like to express my delegation's hope that at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly the draft resolution on this item can be conceptually clarified so as to reflect a balance of the views of all groups of States. Otherwise, Bulgaria will most probably not be in a position to support it.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 69.

The General Assembly will now consider the report of the First Committee (A/45/792) on agenda item 70, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace". The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the First Committee in paragraph 7 of that report.

The First Committee adopted that draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 45/81).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 70.

The Assembly will now turn to the report of the First Committee (A/45/793) on agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council", dealing with section D of chapter III of the report of the Council, which was allocated to the First Committee. Section D is entitled "International co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant".

The First Committee, on the basis of a proposal made by its Chairman, decided to take no action on agenda item 12 on the understanding that it would receive comprehensive consideration in the Second Committee.

We have thus concluded our consideration of all the reports of the First Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 125 (continued)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The PRESIDENT: I have been requested to announce that in some Main Committees, when recorded votes were taken, votes were cast on behalf of a Member State which at that time was listed by the Secretary-General in his letter to the President of the General Assembly (A/45/515 and Add.1-3) as being among those Member States which were in arrears, under the provisions of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the payment of their financial contributions to the Organization.

Pursuant to Article 19 such Member States have no vote in the General Assembly. While the votes of the Member State concerned should not have been recorded, this technical error did not affect the outcome of the votes, which remained valid and stood as announced.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.